



## *Florida House of Representatives*

### Democratic Office

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*Democratic Leader*

*Geraldine F. Thompson*  
*Democratic Leader Pro Tempore*

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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### **PERSPECTIVE ON REPUBLICAN LEADER ADAM HASNER'S VOTE ON EMBRYONIC STEM CELL RESEARCH**

**TALLAHASSEE, FL ---** Florida House Republican Leader Adam Hasner (R-Boca Raton) led a House floor vote today that will endanger efforts to find cures for a wide range of life-threatening medical conditions, including genetic diseases prominent in the American Jewish and African American communities.

Every ethnic, racial and demographic group faces certain genetic diseases that occur at high frequencies. Such is the case for the Jewish people and African Americans. Embryonic stem cell research holds the promise of finding cures for many of these diseases, such as Tay-Sachs Disease and Sickle Cell Anemia.

Additionally, embryonic stem cell researchers hope to someday yield treatments for Alzheimer's, diabetes, and other debilitating conditions such as spinal-cord injuries and Parkinson's Disease.

Leader Hasner argued today against allowing Florida's public universities to use public money toward embryonic stem cell research. Hasner argued that it would be improper to use state funding for this vital work.

Furthermore, in a callous political statement, Hasner said it was "cutthroat

politics” that motivated House Democratic Leader Franklin Sands to file an amendment to allow such critical research.

Hasner’s reluctance to support state funding for the research is in sharp contrast with the views of many residents of his political district as well as President Barack Obama’s administration, which has recently endorsed the funding of such research.

Democratic Leader Sands said Florida should welcome embryonic stem cell research because it could bring medical miracles and economic improvements for our state. Florida aims to become a hub for biotech research. Using state subsidies, Florida has recruited the Scripps Research Institute and other laboratories.

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